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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, Sept. 11, 2009  
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## **5 indicted for distributing cocaine**

Five Twin Cities men have been indicted for allegedly distributing cocaine in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Manuel Antonio Sotelo, 43, Brooklyn Center, was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 or more grams of cocaine and four counts of distribution of cocaine. Guillermo Perez-Chavez, 34, St. Paul, was charged with one count of conspiracy, five counts of distribution of cocaine, and one count of attempted distribution of 500 or more grams of cocaine. Luis Alfonso Perez-Robles, 34, St. Paul, and Valerio Luis Hernandez-Quiroz, 35, St. Paul, each were charged with one count of conspiracy and one count of possession with intent to distribute various controlled substances. Juan Roberto Castaneda-Diaz, 34, Richfield, was charged with one count of conspiracy and one count of attempted distribution of 500 or more grams of cocaine.

The indictment filed in federal court earlier today alleges that all five defendants conspired to distribute cocaine between April 8 and Aug. 21, 2009. It also alleges that Sotelo and Perez-Chavez distributed cocaine on April 14 and 21, June 4 and July 9, while Perez-Chavez distributed the drug alone on Aug. 6. On Aug. 21, Perez-Chavez, joined by Castaneda-Diaz, allegedly attempted to distribute cocaine. Perez-Robles and Hernandez-Quiroz allegedly possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana, in addition to cocaine, on Aug. 20.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavits, police began investigating Perez-Robles and Hernandez-Quiroz on Aug. 16, after learning they had been seen with large quantities of cocaine. As part of that investigation, officers executed a search warrant at their apartment on Aug. 20, where they seized 1 kilogram of cocaine, 50 grams of methamphetamine, 20 pounds of marijuana and a small amount of heroin. Hernandez-Quiroz, who was home at the time, immediately was arrested. Perez-Robles had left the apartment prior to the search but was apprehended before he could leave the apartment complex.

Police then learned that on Aug. 19, Perez-Robles and Hernandez-Quiroz had arranged to

purchase an additional kilogram of cocaine from Perez-Chavez. As a result, officers set up a controlled buy, and when Perez-Chavez arrived at the buy location in St. Paul on Aug. 21, he was arrested. Castaneda-Diaz, who was with him, also was taken into custody.

Authorities had been investigating Sotelo since April 8, 2009, after learning he was a supplier of cocaine and marijuana to the Twin Cities. As part of their investigation, law enforcement arranged a controlled purchase of cocaine from him. On April 14, 2009, when Sotelo arrived at the buy location to sell 1 ounce of cocaine for \$1,000, Perez-Chavez accompanied him. Additional controlled buys involving Sotelo and Perez-Chavez were then made on April 21, June 4 and July 9.

If convicted, each of the five defendants faces a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison on the conspiracy charge. A cocaine distribution charge has a potential maximum penalty of 20 years per count. A attempted distribution charge has a potential maximum penalty of 40 years per count. And a possession with intent charge has a potential maximum penalty of 40 years per count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.